

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claims 1, 2, 6, and 18 are amended to improve the form of those claims. Claim 19 is cancelled without prejudice. In total, there are presently 18 claims pending in the application comprising claims 1-18.

Preliminary Amendment

Applicants filed a Preliminary Amendment via Express Mail on May 14, 2001, which date was within three months of the February 12, 2001 filing date of the present application, as May 12 and 13, 2001 fell on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

Applicants note, however, that the present Office Action was conducted with respect to the claims as originally filed, and not with respect to the claims as amended in the Preliminary Amendment.

To expedite prosecution, Applicants provide herein a fully responsive Response to the present Office Action. Applicants respectfully request, however, that the Examiner contact the Applicants' Attorney to discuss appropriate steps for addressing the non-entry of the Preliminary Amendment.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's consideration of each of the references cited on the Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) filed on May 10, 2001, July 26, 2001, August 8, 2002, and September 24, 2003.

Applicants note, however, that the Examiner did not initial each reference listed on the second page of the May 10, 2001 IDS. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner initial each such reference in the indicated location in the May 10, 2001 IDS or contact the Applicant's Attorney if additional information is required.

Claim Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Parasnis.

Claims 1-5

Applicants' independent claim 1 is directed to a system for delivering to a wide area network (WAN) content that is captured over the time period of a live event. The system deals with first and second computers that are connected to respective first and second sides of the WAN. The first computer has a cache for storing a data stream, code for identifying a live portion of the data stream, and code for identifying a user position portion of the data stream. The first computer also has code for replying to requests from the second computer for portions of the data stream. For example, in response to the first request in claim 1, the first computer can send to the second computer the live portion of the data stream. Also for example, in response to the second request in claim 1, the first computer can send to the second computer a portion of the data stream that includes content captured less recently than the content in the live portion of the data stream.

In one embodiment, Applicants' independent claim 1 can be understood to relate to a scenario that includes a data stream having content captured during the time period of a live event, a WAN server having a cache for storing the data stream, and a WAN client having a media player for playing streamed data. In the scenario, the server can send a portion of the data stream over the WAN to the client, and the client can play the received portion of the data stream on the media player.

As known by those of ordinary skill in the art and described in Applicants' published application (see, e.g., paragraph 7), some of the content of the data stream can be lost during transmission from the server to the client over the WAN. For example, some of the content of the live portion of the data stream can be lost during transmission. Applicants' independent claim 1 provides a solution to this problem by allowing the client to, for example, "rewind" the data stream during the time period of the live event (see, e.g., paragraphs 26 and 52-54 of Applicants' published application). (Additionally, Applicants' independent claim 1 allows the client to, for example, pause the data stream during the time period of the live event and resume the data stream later.) Specifically, Applicants' independent claim 1 includes receiving a second request from a second computer (e.g., a client) and sending from a first computer (e.g., a server)

to the second computer (e.g., the client) during the time period of the live event a portion of the data stream that includes content captured less recently than the content in the live portion of the data stream.

In contrast to Applicants' independent claim 1, Parasnis does not contemplate the problem of lost content during transmission of a data stream from a server to a client over a WAN. More specifically, Parasnis describes a system for broadcasting a live presentation from a broadcast source to a plurality of receiving computers that are connected to that source across a network. (Parasnis 4/1-5.) The live presentation includes a pre-defined content portion and a live content portion, in which the pre-defined portion includes presentation slides and the live portion includes live audio and/or video content. (Parasnis 4/6-11.) Preferably, the broadcast source sends the pre-defined portion over the network to the receiving computers for caching before the live presentation. (Parasnis 4/17-27.) During the live presentation, the broadcast source generates a data stream from the live portion and streams that data stream and slide display commands to the receiving computers, and the receiving computers synchronously display the live portion and the respective slides in the pre-defined content portion. (Parasnis 4/27-39.)

At most, Parasnis teaches that the broadcast source can send to the receiving computers the live portion of the data stream during the time period of the live presentation. Parasnis does not teach or suggest sending any other portion of the data stream to the receiving computers during the time period of the live presentation, let alone Applicants' claimed portion of the data stream that includes content captured less recently than the content in the live portion. True, Parasnis does describe streaming the data stream and concurrently transmitting the pre-defined content portion to the receiving computers during the time period of the live presentation (Parasnis 24/11-45) and also replaying the presentation after that time period, i.e., when the presentation is finished (Parasnis 25/62-67). However, neither of these scenarios involves sending any portion other than the live portion of the data stream to the receiving computers during the time period of the live presentation because (a) the slides are transmitted separately from the data stream and are not themselves streamed (Parasnis 4/17-39) and (b) the replay occurs after the time period of the live presentation (Parasnis 25/62-67).

Moreover, Parasnis expressly teaches away from sending any portion of the data stream other than the live portion to the receiving computer during the time period of the live event

because Parasnis endeavors to provide the presentation to the receiving computers in as close to “real time” as possible. As stated in Parasnis 5/7-10 and 23/50-56, the receiving computer’s media player decodes the data stream provided by the broadcast source as that stream is received, so as to replicate the live portion of the presentation in real time and thereby display a real time video image and provide a real time audio portion. Parasnis’ stated objective of providing a presentation in real time is technically incompatible with sending anything other than the live portion of the data stream to the receiving computers during the time period of the live presentation.

Parasnis does not, therefore, teach or suggest at least the feature of Applicants’ independent claim 1 directed to receiving a second request from a second computer and sending from a first computer to the second computer during the time period of the live event a portion of the data stream that includes content captured less recently than the content in the live portion of the data stream.

As such, independent claim 1 is allowable. Since independent claim 1 is allowable, claims 2-5 are also allowable at least based on their dependency on claim 1, thereby mooted the Examiner’s rejections of those claims.

Claims 6-10

Applicants’ independent claim 6 is directed to a system for delivering content that is captured over the time period of a live event and includes features similar to those of Applicants’ independent claim 1. Additional to many of the features of Applicants’ independent claim 1, Applicants’ independent claim 6 includes a first computer that has a cache for storing a plurality of synchronized data streams and code for sending to a second computer a portion of at least one of the synchronized data streams that includes content captured less recently than the content in the live portion of the plurality of the data streams.

As previously described herein with respect to independent claim 1, Parasnis does not teach or suggest the claimed feature directed to receiving a second request from a second computer and sending from a first computer to the second computer during the time period of the live event a portion of the data stream that includes content captured less recently than the content in the live portion of the data stream.

Moreover, Parasnis does not contain any description, let alone any teaching or suggestion, directed to storing a plurality of synchronized data streams. Parasnis does not, therefore, teach or suggest the features of Applicants' independent claim 6 directed to a first computer having a cache for storing such a plurality of data streams and code for sending to a second computer a portion of at least one of the synchronized data streams that includes content captured less recently than the content in the live portion of the plurality of the data streams.

As such, independent claim 6 is allowable. Since independent claim 6 is allowable, claims 7-10 are also allowable at least based on their dependency on claim 6, thereby mooting the Examiner's rejections of those claims.

Claims 11- 13

Applicants' independent claim 11 is directed to a method of streaming a data stream over a WAN. The method deals with first and second computers connected to the WAN, in which the first computer can stream the data stream to the second computer in a plurality of streaming modes (e.g., first and second streaming modes), and the second computer includes a media player program for presenting the content of the data stream to a user at the second computer. The media player program includes a mode (e.g., a first mode) that does not change in response to a change between the first and second streaming modes supported by the first computer. Among other things, the method includes sending code from the first computer to the second computer for presenting an on-screen interface that allows the user at the second computer to request at least the first and second of the streaming modes and associating time stamp values with data units of the data stream such that the media player at the second computer will present the content of the data stream in a manner that provides the user with the experience of a mode change while the media player remains in the first mode.

In one embodiment, Applicants' independent claim 11 can be understood to relate to a scenario that includes a data stream, a WAN server capable of streaming the data stream in different streaming modes, and a WAN client having a media player for playing streamed data. In the scenario, the media player has a mode that does not change in response to a change between the different streaming modes of the WAN server.

As described in Applicants' published application (see, e.g., paragraphs 9 and 70), some media players do not support adequate streaming modes for delivery of a presentation during the

time period of a live event. For example, some media players support only a single streaming mode, e.g., a “forward play” mode. Such a media player does not allow a user to change streaming modes during the time period of the live event. For example, such a media player does not allow a user to “rewind” a data stream during the time period of the live event (see, e.g., paragraphs 26 and 52-54 of Applicants’ published application). Applicants’ independent claim 11 provides a solution to this problem by providing transient instruction code from the server to the client that allows a user at the client to experience different streaming modes with a fixed-mode media player. Specifically, Applicants’ independent claim 11 includes sending code from a first computer to a second computer for presenting an on-screen interface that allows a user at the second computer to request at least the first and second of the streaming modes supported by the first computer.

In contrast to Applicants’ independent claim 11, Parasnis does not contemplate the problem of a media player that does not support adequate streaming modes for delivery of a presentation during the time period of a live event. At most, Parasnis describes a single “live” streaming mode, and does not contain any description, let alone any teaching or suggestion, that different streaming modes are possible. Moreover, Parasnis’ stated objective of providing a presentation in real time is technically incompatible with any streaming mode other than a live streaming mode.

Parasnis does not, therefore, teach or suggest the features of Applicants’ independent claim 11 directed to sending code from a first computer to a second computer for presenting an on-screen interface that allows a user at the second computer to request at least first and second of the streaming modes supported at the first computer and associating time stamp values with data units of a data stream such that a media player at the second computer will present the content of the data stream in a manner that provides the user with the experience of a mode change while the media player remains in a first mode

As such, independent claim 11 is allowable. Since independent claim 11 is allowable, claims 12 and 13 are also allowable at least based on their dependency on claim 11, thereby mooted the Examiner’s rejections of those claims.

Claims 14-17

Applicants' independent claim 14 is directed to a method in a conferencing system for handling questions/comments (hereinafter referred to as "questions"). The method deals with a speaker, a plurality of participants, and respective monitors connected to respective computers on a network. The speaker (via the speaker computer) can display a sequence of presentation slides on the monitors and the participants (via the participant computers) can provide text of questions to the speaker computer. Among other things, the method includes interposing a Q/A slide into the sequence of presentation slides, sending the text of the questions to the speaker computer, and merging display of the Q/A slide with the text of the questions on the speaker monitor.

Parasnis describes an audience feedback system that allows viewers of a presentation broadcast to e-mail messages to or chat with a speaker during the presentation. (Parasnis 12/12-49.) In contrast to Applicants' independent claim 14, Parasnis does not merge questions from the viewers into a Q/A slide for interposition into and presentation with the presentation slides.

Parasnis does not, therefore, teach or suggest at least the features of Applicants' independent claim 14 directed to interposing a Q/A slide into a sequence of presentation slides and merging display of the Q/A slide with the text of participant questions on a speaker monitor.

As such, independent claim 14 is allowable. Since independent claim 14 is allowable, claims 15-17 are also allowable at least based on their dependency on claim 14, thereby mooted the Examiner's rejections of those claims.

Claim 18

Applicants' independent claim 18 is directed to a system that includes features similar to those of independent claim 11. Applicants' independent claim 18 is, therefore, allowable at least for the same reasons provided with respect to independent claim 11.

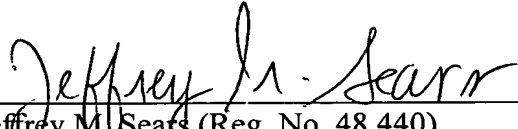
CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request allowance.

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' Attorney if issues are deemed to remain prior to allowance.

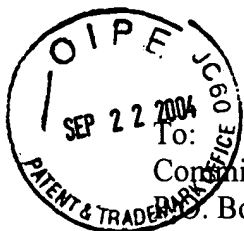
Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 22, 2004



Jeffrey M. Sears (Reg. No. 48,440)
for Allan A. Fanucci (Reg. No. 30,256)

WINSTON & STRAWN LLP
CUSTOMER NO. 28765
(212) 294-3554



EXPRESS MAIL LIST

RECEIVED

SEP 27 2004

Technology Center 2100

To: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

The following items listed below are being filed herewith with the USPTO on September 22, 2004.

Express Mail No. EV 346 811 754 US			
Attorney Docket No.	Appln. Serial No./ Patent No.	Items - Documents filed on <u>September 22, 2004</u>	Patent Fees- Acct. #50- 1814
7663-6000	09/782,172	Amendment - 17 pages	-

*Please acknowledge receipt of these items as received by returning
the enclosed postcards with the date of receipt of September 22, 2004.*